**Group Insurance Scheme for beedi workers**

2552. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a Group Insurance Scheme for the welfare of beedi workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy given on the premium to be paid by the workers under the scheme; and

(d) the total number of beedi workers, covered under the scheme as on 31st December, 2004, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Group Insurance Scheme for beedi workers is being run in collaboration with the Life Insurance Corporation of India Ltd. (LIC). The benefits include an insurance cover of Rs. 10,000/- in case of natural death and Rs. 25,000/- in case of accidental death.

(c) Beedi workers are not required to pay any amount as premium for participating in the Group Insurance Scheme for beedi workers. Presently, the premium is payable at the rate of Rs. 60/- per annum per beedi worker, which is shard equally by the Labour Welfare Organization and the social security fund of the Finance Ministry maintained by the LIC.

(d) All beedi workers who have been issued identity cards, which are around 40.56 lakh are covered under the Group Insurance Scheme except those who are members of Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and are covered by their scheme. State-wise figures are not maintained. •

**Recovery target from P.F. defaulters**

2553. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are contemplated by Government for recovery of PF from defaulters and the recovery targets for the next six months; and

(b) the targets of recovery for the year 2003-04 and the actual recovery from the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Rcovery of oustanding PF dues is effected in accodance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. This includes attachment and sale of properties, arrest and detention of defaulters, appointment of receiver to manage the defaulters' properties. The Organisation has targeted recovery of entire realizable balances in shortest possible time.

(b) The target fixed initially for 2003-04 was Rs. 1000.00 Crore as against the collection of Rs. 886 Crore achieved during 2002-03. However, the Organisation was able to recover Rs. 1832.70 crore during 2003-04.

**Measures to Enhance Job Opportunities**

2554. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the numebr of registered and unregistered unemployed youths in the country; State-wise;

(b) how many are added to the unemployed index due to the closure of factories;

(c) the measures contemplated, if any, for achieving quantum enhancement in job opportunities; and

(d) the time frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) State-wise details of the number of job seekers (all age groups) and those in the age group (up to 39 years) all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges as on 31st Dec. 2003 are given in the enclosed statement (See *below).* Details about the unregistered unemployed are not maintained.

(b)As per the provisional information available for 2004, number of persons affected due to closure of units was around 9759.

(c) and (d) Government is targeting creating of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th Plan period (2002-07) in the